

few days after, to this village in their district where the council was held,—there were shouts of “ Murder them!” “ Kill them!” Then, rushing to the gates by which they would enter, they greeted them with cries and hootings, similar to those with which they receive prisoners of war who are doomed to the flames. Our Fathers went in as usual, with calm faces; [70] for they who fear God have no fear of his creatures, and they who have no other desire than to die in his service do not quail in such emergencies. The rioters conferred together, to decide which of them should raise the hatchet against those two innocent victims. They cast upon them nothing but furious looks, and their hearts thirsted only for blood. But God stayed their hands, for that time; and the two good Fathers passed through the crowd of impious wretches, without receiving any hurt. Many who were not in the conspiracy, but who could not have been ignorant of what had been publicly determined, said one to another, “ Are not these they who were to be massacred? How, then, have they passed through the midst of enemies ready for murder? These have risen up from the throng to kill them; and yet not one has dealt the blow which so many had pledged themselves to strike.”

God did not content himself with protecting our Fathers in this danger; but,—to repay them, for the hardships and dangers of their journey, in the coin with which he pays the day's wages of his servants,—in a single day they baptized seventeen persons in [71] the very village where they were to meet their death, besides confessing a number of Christians.

The village of St. Jean had not as yet been taken and laid waste by the Iroquois when that sedition